

Message Text

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AF/S:DKEOUGH
IO/UNP:GBHELMAN
S/P:TLAKE
S/S: WISNER
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102521 TOSEC 040007

FOR SPEIGEL FROM WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, XA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: TALKS ON NAMIBIA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM IO-MAYNES AND S/P-LAKE FOR MEETING
WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN

1. THE APRIL 27-29 TALKS BETWEEN THE WESTERN CONTACT
GROUP (US, UK, FRANCE, CANADA AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY) AND SOUTH AFRICA WENT BETTER THAN WE HAD
EXPECTED. AS A NEXT STEP THE CONTACT GROUP MET MAY 4
IN NEW YORK AND AGREED ON FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES; IN
PARTICULAR WHICH NAMIBIAN PARTIES AND AFRICAN GOVERN-
MENTS TO BRIEF, AND WHAT TO SAY TO THEM. WALDHEIM WILL
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BE BRIEFED TODAY; SWAPO ON FRIDAY, AND THE FRONT-LINE
STATES AND TURNHALLE EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE HOPE TO
CREATE A STAKE AMONG THE BLACK AFRICANS IN THE ONGOING
NEGOTIATING PROCESS BY GETTING THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
FURTHER GAIN. AT THE SAME TIME, IN TALKING WITH THE
SOUTH AFRICANS WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO CHARACTERIZE

THEIR CONCESSIONS AS IMPORTANT LEST WE FIND OURSELVES
ADVOCATES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION SHOULD LATER
NEGOTIATIONS BECOME DIFFICULT.

2. WE ARE AWAITING FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM SOUTH
AFRICANS REGARDING THEIR INTENTIONS TO CREATE A
"CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY" IN NAMIBIA RATHER
THAN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE TURNHALLE
CONSTITUTION. SHOULD THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN THIS AUTHORITY,
OR IF IT IS STRUCTURED ALONG ETHNIC LINES, THE AFRICANS
MAY TAKE IT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT BY ANOTHER NAME. FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL
BE NECESSARY ON SEVERAL POINTS INCLUDING SOUTH
AFRICA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORY, AND RELEASE
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

3. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE COOPERATION WE HAVE
RECEIVED FROM THE OTHER FOUR WESTERN DELEGATIONS IN
THIS MATTER. BY MAINTAINING A COMMON POSITION, WE
BELIEVE WE HAVE ATTAINED NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE ON SOUTH
AFRICA. WE HOPE FOR SIMILAR RESULTS FROM THE OTHER
AFRICAN PARTIES.

4. TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS OF THE CAPE TOWN
DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TALKS
TO CLARIFY SOME ISSUES SUCH AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLAN
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FOR A "CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY" IN NAMIBIA AND
PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES.

-- PRECEDENT-SETTING CONTACT GROUP APPROACH HAS WORKED
WELL AND IS SHOWING SIGNS OF CONTINUED SUCCESS. FIVE
NATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO COORDINATE THEIR
ACTIVITIES ON NAMIBIAN PROBLEM.

---US IS MOST GRATIFIED BY THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION
MANIFESTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE CONTACT GROUP.

-- WE ARE STILL IN EARLY STAGES OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS
AND MUCH HARD BARGAINING LIES AHEAD, BOTH WITH SOUTH
AFRICANS AND CONCERNED BLACK AFRICAN GROUPS.

-- WHAT IS THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPE TOWN
TALKS?

CHRISTOPHER

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